

Catalyst Advisory Panel - June 2006

Leah Best was appointed as Executive Director of the Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society (Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History) in July 2005. Previous to her appointment, Leah was an Assistant Curator at the Vancouver Art Gallery working with Senior Curator Ian Thom, and coordinating the gallery's significant art acquisition program. In addition to working in gallery settings, Leah has an extensive background working at the local museum level including the Delta Museum and Archives and the New Westminster Museum and Archives; and in the craft and design fields through her role as Exhibition Coordinator at the Canadian Museum of Craft and Design.

Ian Forsyth was born and raised in Vancouver, graduating from UBC with a BFA in Theatre. While freelancing as an actor, director and writer, Ian got into arts administration working at the Arts Club Theatre. During Expo 86, he became general manager of The Vancouver Theatresports League. In 1992, after running Vancouver TheatreSports, working with the Arts Club, New Play Centre, Carousel Theatre and Pink Ink, Ian accepted an opportunity to open and run the North Peace Cultural Centre in Fort St. John. Moving to Kelowna in August of 1998, he became the city's Cultural Services Manager. During this time he also worked to develop Kelowna's Cultural District, Cultural Tourism Initiative and traveled the Okanagan working as an arts consultant in several communities. In November of 2001, Ian moved to Burnaby to become the Arts Services Manager for the City. Ian is currently the incoming President of the Alliance for Arts and Culture, a board member for the BC Touring Council and the Magnetic North Theatre Festival, and is a past Vice-president of CAPACOA, the Canadian Arts Presenter's Association.

John McLachlan was a touring musician from 1985 to 1998 presenting both community and school performances through BC and beyond. From 1998 to 2001 he was the Executive Director of the BC Touring Council for Performing Arts followed in 2002 to 2004 as Executive Director of the Creative City Network of Canada. Currently he operates a web and design business, Gliss Media, whose clients are primarily in the arts sector.

Lou-ann Neel is from the Mamalillikulla and Kwagiulth Tribes of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation. Lou-ann has worked in the areas of Aboriginal arts, culture and language for the past twenty years and is also an accomplished visual artist, creating works in textiles and more recently has begun creating jewellery in silver, brass and copper. Lou-ann currently works as the Arts Program Associate / Aboriginal Arts Outreach Coordinator for the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council.

Keith Wallace has been a curator of visual art since 1979 and has worked both independently and with public galleries. From 1991 to 2001 he was Curator, then Director/Curator, of the Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver where he developed a program of regional, national, and international exhibitions. In 2004 he organized InFest: International Artist Run Culture that brought together 250 artists and administrators from 25 countries. Keith is currently Associate Director/Curator of the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery at the University of British Columbia and editor of Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art, generated in Vancouver and published in Taipei.